

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

OF THE

Whitworth Urban District

DURING 1937.

WHITWORTH :

H. Howard, Printer and Stationer, 699 Market Street.

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN—MR. J. HEAP

MESSRS. J. BARKER, J.P. (*ex-officio*)

J. BOWER

T. GROARKE

F. HILL

F. HOLT, J.P.

G. KERSHAW

A. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. T. J. L. FORBES

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

MR. F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

LIST OF ACTS AND SECTIONS THEREOF
ADOPTED BY THE WHITWORTH URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.
2. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, (Part III)
Adopted December 6th, 1909.
3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, (Part II).
Local Government Board Order, dated November 9th,
1910.
4. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, extending to
Poliomyelitis and Cerebro Spinal Fever, February,
1912.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE :

9th May, 1910—New Streets and Buildings.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| „ | „ | Means of escape in case of fire. |
| „ | „ | Nuisances. |
| „ | „ | Cleansing of Footways and Pavements. |
| „ | „ | Slaughter Houses. |
| „ | „ | Common Lodging Houses. |
| „ | „ | Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops
Regulations. |

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of
Whitworth.*

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and mortality of our district for 1937.

The Report is based on a series of Tables, to which I especially draw your attention. This is followed by a summary of particulars as required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

I have to thank the Health Committee and my co-officials for their co-operation and help during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. J. L. FORBES, M.B., Ch.M.

*Council Offices, Whitworth,
15th April, 1938.*

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area in acres	4,483
Population—Census, 1931	8,360
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937.....	7,625
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931).....	2,564
End of 1937 according to rate books	2,502
Rateable value.....	£33,160
Sum represented by a penny rate	£123 0s 0d.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—An Industrial Area : Cotton Spinning and Weaving ; Stone Quarrying ; Dairy Farming ; Shuttle and Picker Making.

Extent of unemployment—More extensive than previous year.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—Silicosis amongst quarry workers ; Asbestosis amongst asbestos workers ; Bronchitis and Asthma amongst cardroom operatives in cotton trade.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Total.				M.	F.	} Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 14·0	
		Legitimate				103	56		47
		Illegitimate				4	2		2
		Total				...	107		58	49
Still Births	...	...	...	4	3	1	Rate per 1000 Total (live and stillbirths) 36	
Deaths	109	50	59	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popu- lation ... ..*14·2	
Deaths from Puerperal causes—									
						Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) births		
Puerperal sepsis						—	Nil		
Other puerperal causes						—	Nil		
Total						—	Nil		

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :								
All infants per 1000 live births...				...	...	...	...	65
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births				...	...	...	...	48
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				...	...	...	...	500

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Population 7,625	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total (live and still) Births	
Mean of 5 years							
1932-1936	13·6	15·2	0·66	1·72	1·61	1·51	92
1936	11·0	14·6	0·38	1·90	Nil	Nil	149
1937	14·0	*14·2	0·13	1·44	Nil	Nil	65
Increase or Decrease in 1937 on 5 years average							
1932-1936	+0·4	—1·0	—0·53	—0·28	—1·61	—1·51	—27
Previous Year	+3·0	—0·4	—0·25	—0·46	Nil	Nil	—84

*1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1·06)=15·0 per 1,000.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.—None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year —None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.—See above.

Any *evidence*, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.—None.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—T. J. L. FORBES.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority?—Part-time. Any other public appointments held by him?—Police Surgeon.

Is he in private practice?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspector—F. COOKSON.

Whole or part time as Sanitary Inspector—Whole.

Other appointments held (if any)—Meat and Food Inspector, Shops Act Inspector.

Veterinary Inspector (any appointment or arrangement by the local authority)—MR. HERBERT, ROCHDALE.

Remuneration (state whether salary, or fees, and amount)—No special arrangement.

Are his duties entirely in connection with action under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925?—No.

If not, what other duties does he perform for the local authority?—Anything veterinary required.

Does he make a routine examination of every herd in the district?—No. If so, how often?—Upon request.

If occasional inspection only is carried out, under what circumstances do these inspections take place (*e.g.*, at the request of M.O.H., etc.)?—At request of M.O.H. or Sanitary Inspector.

Any other specialised Inspector(s) (*e.g.*, Food Inspector)?—No. Food Inspection carried out by Sanitary Inspector who is fully qualified.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, etc. (If any, state number and remuneration):—Lancashire County Council Staff.

Ambulance facilities for :—

- (a) Infectious cases: Motor. Provided by Rochdale Corporation.
- (b) Non-infectious and accident cases: Motor. Provided by Rochdale Corporation.
- (c) Maternity patients: Motor. Provided by Rochdale Corporation.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the district for—

- (a) General nursing—None.
- (b) For infectious diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, etc.—None.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to voluntary associations—£47.

Hospitals *in the district*—

- (a) Public—None.
- (b) Voluntary—None.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for :—

- Unmarried mothers—No.
- Illegitimate infants—No.
- Homeless children—No.

Health Education :—Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment ? (*e g.*, Health Week, special lectures, etc.)—By Distribution of Posters and Leaflets.

New legislation (if any) and date of operation :—Local Acts—No. Special Local Orders—No. General Adoptive Acts—No. Bye-laws relating to public health—None.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source—Rochdale and Bacup Corporation Reservoirs.

Particulars of any *new* sources of public supply—None.

Is supply of district satisfactory ?—(*a*) in quality—Yes. (*b*) in quantity—Yes.

Constant or intermittent—Constant.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private) : (*a*) direct from mains—2453. (*b*) by stand pipe—None.

Possibilities of contamination—None known.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination—Frequent flushing.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action—None reported.

If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination. If so, No. of examinations—3. Results—Good.

Chemical analyses : Results—Good.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.—163.

Have these waters been analysed during the year ? If so, state result—Yes. Satisfactory.

Any insufficiency, and where—None known.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year—None.

Drainage and Sewerage :—Sewage disposal works, method of treatment — Precipitation tanks, continuous filters, and humus tanks.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system—None.

Any progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage — No known insufficiency of drainage system.

Areas, or Townships without proper drainage system and reason therefor—None.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.—Testing and flushing carried out by Local Authority.

Rivers and Streams :—Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams—Connection of drainage to sewer where found entering river. Periodical inspection of offensive trades.

Sources and nature of pollution—No serious pollution.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution ?—No.

Closet accommodation at end of 1937 :—

Privy middens :—No. of middens—None.

No. of closets attached to these middens—None.

No. of pail closets—65

No. of dry ashpits (*excluding middens*)—None.

No. of movable ashbins—1741.

No. of houses on water carriage system—2486.

No. of fresh water closets—1740.

No. of waste water closets—179.

Conversions —

		During year 1937	During 5 years 1932-36
No. of privy closets	{ To fresh w c.'s ...	None ...	7
	{ To waste w.c.'s...	None ...	None
	{ To pails, etc. ...	None ...	None
No. of pail closets	{ To fresh w.c.'s ...	None ...	1076
	{ To waste w.c.'s...	None ...	None
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s ...		11 ...	None
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed recep- tacles		None ...	6

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Yes, but pail closets exist at farms, and where no sewer is available.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—When occasion arises. If so, how much?—Half cost or £4 maximum.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for *new* property?—Fresh water carriage.

Public Cleansing—

- (a) The method of collecting dry house refuse—Manual labour and motor transport.
- (b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies.—No earth closets or privies.
- (c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse—Controlled tipping.
- (d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies—See (b).
- (e) The method of cleansing cesspools—None.
- (f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents—None.

If a destructor provided, state situation—None.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses—Sanitary Authority.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements—No ; weekly collection.

Are motor vehicles used?—Yes.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—None.

Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging? Yes

Sanitary Inspections during 1937 (including Housing):—

No. of premises visited—303.

Defects or nuisances—No. discovered 180. No. abated 119

No. of notices served—Informal 47. Statutory 6.

Legal Proceedings—None. Result—Nil.

Shops—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to :

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| (a) Ventilation of shops | } Shops inspected but no
action required. |
| (b) Temperature of shops | |
| (c) Sanitary conveniences | |

Smoke Abatement :—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—None.

No. of factory and works chimneys in the district—15. Five not in use at present.

No. of observations—15.

No. of legal proceedings taken and result—None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry—Further to the time limit for black smoke, attention is drawn for 10 minutes' emission of dense smoke per half-hour.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ?—Six minutes.

Swimming Baths and Pools—

Brief particulars of any :

- (a) Public swimming baths or pools—None.
- (b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public—None.

Eradication of bed bugs—

Particulars of action taken during 1937—

No. of houses found to be infested : (a) Council Houses—Nil ; (b) Other houses—2.

No. of houses disinfested : (a) Council houses—Nil ; (b) Other houses—2.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs—Spraying and fumigation after removal of wallpaper, skirting boards, floor boarding, etc.

Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to council houses—None adopted by Council.

Is work of disinfection carried out by local authority or by a contractor ?—Local Authority.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing—Not found necessary due to very little known infestation. No complaints of bug infestation.

Schools—

(a) Sanitary condition—Good.

(b) Water supply—Corporation. Satisfactory ?—Yes.

Offensive Trades :—No.—2. Character—Tripe Dressing and Hide Curing.

Action taken—Frequent inspection. Action required—None.

Date of any bye-laws in force in respect of offensive trades—None.

Workshops and Workplaces :—

No. on Register—45. What is their condition ?—Majority satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses :—No. on register—Nil. Date of bye-laws—May, 1910. Are they adequate ?—Yes.

Houses let in lodgings :—No. on register—Nil. Action taken—None. Date of bye-laws—None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—Action taken—None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms :—Any need for regulations ? None.

Canal Boats :—Number inspected—None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold—None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1937 :—

See Housing Report. General steady improvement.

Chief sanitary requirements of district :—

The repair of secondary and private streets.

The repair of back yards and passages.

HOUSING.*(a)* STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

<i>(a)</i> Total (including numbers given separately under <i>(b)</i>)	37
(i) By the local authority... ..	26
(ii) By other local authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	11
<i>(b)</i> With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the local authority (included under <i>(a)</i> (i) above)	26
(ii) By other bodies or persons (included under <i>(a)</i> (iii) above)	0

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) <i>(a)</i> Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	174
<i>(b)</i> Number of inspections made for the purpose	238
(2) <i>(a)</i> No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	51
<i>(b)</i> Number of inspections made for the purpose	51
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	18
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	116
--	-----

3. *Action under statutory powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 4 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | 0 |

(b)* Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | 7 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | 0 |

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... .. | 13 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... .. | †21 |

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 5 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

* Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects.

† Includes Demolition Orders made 1936.

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	87
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...				101
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...				563
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	4
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	11
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases					63

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. *General observations as to housing conditions*, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :

Back to earth houses (180) with cavity at rear of little consequence.

Shortage of houses with bathroom accommodation.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district—760.

2. *Sufficiency of supply of houses.*

(a) Extent of shortage (if any) :—

Shortage of houses (see (b)).

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated :—

Erection of 26 houses just completed.

Erection of 28 houses now commenced and contract in hand for a further 32 to meet the shortage.

(c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future :—

None.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses :—

None at present.

3. *Overcrowding.*

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1937 :—

No cases of overcrowding in Council houses.

- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations :—

One (condemned house.)

- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :—

None.

- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, *e.g.*, causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc. :—

Houses not yet available for larger families.

4. *Fitness of houses.*

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts :—

Housing Acts. Due to particular types of houses, *e.g.*, houses built to hillside with small cavity at rear.

- (b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply :—

Six.

- (c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation :—

None.

5. *Action taken during the year regarding :—**Clearance Areas—*

No. of areas represented—None.

No. of areas cleared—None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants—
None.

Improvement Areas—

No. of areas represented—None.

No. of houses demolished—None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants—
None.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Milk supply—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

Periodical inspection of Farms and Dairies, Biological, Bacteriological and Sediment Sampling of milk.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1937 in respect of—

“Tuberculin Tested” milk :

(i) Bottling—Nil. (ii) Distribution—Nil.

“Accredited” milk :

(i) Bottling—Nil. (ii) Distribution—Nil.

No. of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” milk :

Pasteurising plants—Nil. Retail distributors—Nil.

Method used for the pasteurisation of milk (“flash” or “holding”)—No pasteurisation apparatus.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :—

Are they periodically inspected ?—Yes.

How often ?—Approximately twice yearly.

What is their condition ?—Fairly good. Steady progress of modernisation.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, *e.g.*, re-modelling of cowsheds ? (Give brief particulars) :

Procedure through informal notice followed up by negotiations with owners, *i.e.*, Eight shippons re-constructed on modern principles ; Four New Dairies provided ; Drainage re-constructed on modern principles, etc.

Any information as to the cost of work, either actual or estimated : £1495.

Farms.

No. of dairy farms—33.

Approximate number of cows in the district—326.

Cowkeepers.

No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms)—42.

No. of inspections during the year—89.

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)—1.

If a Veterinary Inspector has been appointed give (a) the approximate number of cows inspected and (b) the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis :—

(a) No appointment. (b) Nil.

Action taken by local authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous milk. No. of samples submitted for biological test—34.

Result :—Positive—1. Negative—33.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations :—Standards adopted—
Not more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c. No B.Coli
in .01 c.c.

No of samples—31. No. satisfactory—12. No. unsatisfactory—19.

(iii) Sediment tests. No. of samples—24. No. satisfactory—22. No. unsatisfactory—2.

(2) Meat and other foods.—Observations on—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared :—

Annual notifications re times of slaughtering, inspection two and three times weekly of slaughterhouses and meat-carrying vehicles and frequent inspections of food preparation premises (388 visits).

No. of legal proceedings and result—None.

(b) Inspection of meat—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

				Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known ...				Not fully known				
Number inspected				271		42	1165	161
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned	—			—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—			—	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—			—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned	—			—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—			—	2	—	—	3

(c) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided ?—No.

Private slaughterhouses :—No. registered—None. No.
licensed—7.

Are they conducted satisfactorily ?—Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken thereunder :—

None.

(e) Food Poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken (if any)—

None required.

(f) Bakehouses :—Number—22. Condition—Fairly good.

(3) Adulteration, etc.—

Action taken by *local authority* (if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of—

- (i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—Not a Food and Drugs Authority.
- (ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations—Not a Food and Drugs Authority.

If the Council is an Authority under the Food and Drugs Acts, give name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out—See (3) (i).

(4) Chemical and bacteriological examinations of food (excluding milk)—None.

No. and nature of analyses during the year, and the laboratories to which specimens were sent—None.

(5) Nutrition—

Steps taken to increase knowledge of public on the subject and to bring to their minds the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children, by means of lectures, films, etc.—

Only by leaflet.

Particulars of any special investigation which has been made on the subject of nutrition—

None.

(6) Shell-fish (*Molluscan*)—

- (a) Particulars of any shell-fish beds or layings in the district—None.

Action under—

- (i) Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934—Nil.
- (ii) Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :—

For Smallpox—Bury and District Joint Hospital.

No. of beds—Unlimited.

Where situate—Bury.

Is the hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement” ?
(state nature thereof) :—Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid ?—Yes. If so, what sum or sums ?—£40 per annum.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority ?
Not a Joint Hospital.

For other infectious diseases—Marland Infectious Diseases Hospital.

No. of beds—New agreement concluded.

Where situate—Marland, Rochdale.

Is the hospital used by “agreement” or “arrangement” ?
(state nature thereof) :—Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid ?—No.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority ?
No.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment ? - No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease. The *total* cost to the local authority for two recent years : Year ended March 31st, 1936, £337 ; Year ended March 31st, 1937, £360

Observations as to sufficiency or otherwise of the available accommodation—Ample.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage ?—Yes.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever ?—Yes.

Or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home ?—Yes.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative ?—No.

Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough ?—No.

Infectious diseases generally :—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1937, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection—

The District has been very free from a severe epidemic of any kind.

Give the clinical type and diffusion of :

(a) Diphtheria—Faucial and mild.

(b) Cerebro-spinal fever—None.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of :

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin—Promptly used.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum—None issued.

Are supplies readily available ?—Yes.

If so, where kept ?—At my house.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners ?—Yes, if required.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without a rash, and puerperal fever)—None reported.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics :

None required.

Pneumonia, malaria, and dysentery.—Experience in regard to these diseases—Ordinary.

Other diseases which have received special attention, *e.g.*, locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever undulant fever, glandulant fever, or psittacosis ?

Nothing special.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period.

Measles, Whooping cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)
Chicken-pox—Not notifiable.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation?—None.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to (a) contacts, (b) return cases, (c) carrier cases (specify disease):

Diphtheria carriers notified by School Medical Officer.

The extent to which school intimations of disease are utilised?—Fully.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.—At which laboratory are specimens examined?—

St. Alban's Laboratory, Rochdale.

State number and nature of specimens examined in 1937:

Sputa—9. Throat Swabs—12. Blood—2.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1937 for—

Scarlet fever—0. Whooping cough—0. Diphtheria—0.
Chicken-pox—0. Measles—0. Influenza.—0. Any other diseases (specify same)—0.

Number of reports made during 1937 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935—

Subjects of reports --None.

Immunisation.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria and/or scarlet fever:

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools—None during 1937.

(b) At special clinics or day schools—None.

(c) Otherwise than (a) or (b)—By private practitioners for diphtheria.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners?—Yes, when asked for.

No. of children inoculated.—Against (a) scarlet fever—Not known (b) diphtheria—Not known.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken?—Not known.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1937.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL			
	Total Cases at all Ages	YEARS											Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district.	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					65 & over
Smallpox ... ..	...						1	2						...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3						1	2						...	...	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	5						1	4						...	4	1	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)... ..	...													...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }	2										1	1	...	8	2	2	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia... }																	
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...													}	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...														...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...													...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	1				1									...	1	...	
Acute Polio-Encephalitis... ..	...													...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica... ..	...													...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...													...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	...													...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...													...	...	...
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ...	...													...	...	...
Abroad .....	...													...	...	...
Any other diseases <i>notifiable</i> in district, <i>e.g.</i> :—																	
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...													...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles... }	Not Notifiable													2	...	...
Whooping Cough																	
Any other disease ... ..	...													...	...	...
Totals	11					1	2	6				1	1	...	10	7	3

Disinfection after infectious disease .—

No. of houses disinfected during 1937—18.

Method (state disinfectant used)—Formaldehyde Vapour.

Are houses disinfected after (a) pulmonary tuberculosis—
Yes. (b) measles—No.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc., (steam or otherwise)—Fumigated along with house.

No. of articles disinfected—Not known.

Where is apparatus situated ?—Nil.

Disinfestation :—

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous etc , persons ?—None.

In how many instances has this been undertaken ?—None.

The prevalence of any animal or insect pests such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitoes, etc., should be referred to and particulars given of the measures taken for their suppression.

Very little bug infestation reported. Refuse tip dealt with for Rats but no infestation under controlled tipping. Distribution of rat killer where required to tenant of premises infested.

Cancer.—Any observations as to the prevalence of cancer ?
No fresh observations.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer, (*i.e.*, facilities available, etc.) :—

Only by personal advice.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or other developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the area which have been effected during the year (whether by local authority or voluntary hospitals) :—

No fresh developments.

Are the present facilities adequate ?—
Yes.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres ?

Yes.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer ?—

None.

Prevention of Blindness.—Action taken (if any) under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes :—

By L.C.C.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

ALL CAUSES							M. 50	F. 59
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Heart disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	17
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	10
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Peptic ulcer ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liver diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other digestive diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Congenital causes, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Endocarditis and Premature Birth, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy & parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senility ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other deaths from violence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined causes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Ill-defined or not known ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...	{	Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	4
		Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	3
		Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1
LIVE BIRTHS	{	Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	58	49
		Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	56	47
		Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2
STILLBIRTHS	{	Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	1
		Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	1
		Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
POPULATION (RESIDENT) ... 7625								
COMPARABILITY FACTOR 1·06								

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified Causes. } Uncertified				...	1	...	1	2	1	1	1	2	7
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles	2	2
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Whooping Cough
{ Diarrhœa
{ Enteritis	1	...	...	...	1
{ Tuberculous Meningitis...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis...
{ Other Tuberculous Disease
{ Congenital Malformations
{ Premature Birth	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
{ Atrophy, Debility } Marasmus)			
{ Atelectasis
{ Injury at Birth
{ Erysipelas
{ Syphilis
{ Rickets
{ Meningitis <i>not Tuberculous</i>
{ Convulsions
{ Gastritis
{ Laryngitis
{ Bronchitis
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	1	...	1
{ Suffocation...
{ Influenza
{ Endocarditis	1	...	...	1
{ Pemphigus...
{ Accident
Total.....					1		1	2	1	1	1	2	7

Births { legitimate...103 }
 { illegitimate 4 } 107

Deaths { legitimate infants, 5 }
 { illegitimate infants, 2 } 7

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
15—20 „ .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 „	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 „	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
	4		4		1		0	
	8				1			

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths ?—All notified.

In your opinion is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient ?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify ?—Not necessary.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district ?
—As a terminal result of Silicosis.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade—

Under Article	3	} No action taken.
„	5	
„	6	
„	7	

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1925 AND 1936.

Any action taken under section 62, Public Health Act, 1925, or section 172, Public Health Act, 1936—No action necessary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Is the Maternity and Child Welfare Work carried out by the *local* authority or by the County Council?—

L.C.C.

What arrangements have been made under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, for :—

Consultants	} L.C.C. Scheme.
Bacteriological examinations	
Hospital treatment	
Provision of nurses	

What arrangements have been made under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926, for :—

Hospital treatment	} L.C.C. Scheme.
Provision of nurses	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Details should be given in the following table of *each* case of ophthalmia neonatorum notified in your district during 1937 :—

Cases—None.

Child Life Protection (under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932). Action taken :—

L.C.C. Scheme.

GENERAL NOTES.

To anyone taking a special interest in figures I would draw attention to the Table of Vital Statistics. The **Population** as estimated is 7,625, which I regard as a little too low. The **Death Rate** (crude) is less by $\cdot 4$ on the previous year, and when adjusted (comparability figures 1.06) works out at 15 per 1000. **Heart Disease** accounts for the largest number of deaths (34) and **Cancer** comes next (11).

The term **Heart Disease** may cover the cause of death when only the terminal symptoms of some other disease. Without post mortem examination it is not possible to make general deductions with any accuracy but this is certainly a very common termination of life in our district.

The number of **Transferable Deaths**, *i.e.*, deaths of residents occurring outwith the area, was 34, and chiefly refer to deaths in Rochdale Infirmary and Birch Hill.

The deaths from **Cancer** show little change from last year so far as numbers go. It is encouraging to know that more use is being made of the Radium Centres (Rochdale Infirmary and Christie Hospital).

We are again in the position of having no deaths from **Puerperal Causes**.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

For all births this works out at 65 per 1000, compared with 149 in 1936. The figure for illegitimate births is 500 per 1000. This sounds alarming but is accounted for by the deaths of 2 illegitimates, not born in the district at all! Our real infantile mortality rate is 32.5, the lowest I have ever recorded. The rate for legitimate children is 48 per 1000 per annum.

Turning now to the **Birth Rate** we find the total number of births is 107 and the sex incidence is M. 58, F. 49. . 4 illegitimate births were registered. The rate is 14 per 1000, an increase of 3 per 1000 on the previous year. Over a period of 5 years the rate is an average increase of only 0.4. Babies are simply not being born as they used to be. In a short summary like this one cannot enter into the reasons why. Social and economic conditions may have a bearing on the question.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases notified was 11 as compared with 32 in 1936. Like other communities it has been a year when we were free from any serious epidemic.

There was one fatal case of **Diphtheria** in Marland Fever Hospital and 2 following complications after Measles.

Measles is not a notifiable disease and one can only estimate the number of cases. The school population 5—10 years of age was pretty well involved in all the schools. No closure was required, and the majority of the cases turned out to be of a mild character.

Under the County re-arrangement a new agreement with Rochdale Corporation has been sealed and this area is grouped with Heywood. The annual cost will be increased but if lives are saved it is well worth the extra expenditure. Parents now seem to avail themselves of Hospital facilities more readily.

Tuberculosis shows a reduced rate, and we have had no **Puerperal Pyrexia** or **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**.

HOUSING.

Vide Sanitary Inspector's report for details.

Every effort has been made to deal during the year with overcrowding, which is still too prevalent. In spite of the district being literally a "depressed area" at this date, we still need more new houses, and the building programme in hand is still insufficient to remedy matters. Unfortunately we have had to deal with the building sins of our forefathers, and we have not had such a long period of grace to remedy matters. There is certainly a demand for new houses and I see no reason why the south end of the area should not be a residential area some day or even a suburb of Rochdale.

THE MILK SUPPLY.

A lot of work has been done about this in 1937, and the results are not at all satisfactory in half of the cases. I am quite convinced the local farmers are "on their toes," and making an honest attempt to improve matters, with one or two exceptions. However, the next Milk Bill, due this year, will be far-reaching, I expect.

“The Milk problem is always with us and in spite of legislation the supply still remains under suspicion. Milk can certainly be, and often is, one of the most dangerous food products in existence. It may harbour disease germs of various kinds including the organisms of typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or abortus fever, to mention a few.

In the face of Epidemics such as those at Bournemouth and Doncaster in 1936 we are told to “drink more milk.”

At present **Pasteurisation** is put forward as the final solution of the great problem. This will be made compulsory by legislation, and the scheme is devised for the purpose of pasteurising milk on a large scale, and not by the individual consumer. Briefly the process consists of heating the milk to about 145° F., keeping at that temperature for 30 minutes, and finally cooling it to 55° F. This temperature destroys many micro organisms, so that the milk is rendered comparatively safe so far as infection is concerned.

One is often asked by intelligent parents to give advice on this matter in the upbringing of children. At the present time it is difficult to get literally “clean” milk, and the next best thing is “safe” milk, *i.e.*, pasteurised. Pasteurisation in my humble opinion will not totally solve the great problem. Pasteurised milk does not keep well. After it comes into the home it cannot be boiled or “scalded.” To do so would be to interfere materially with its nutritive properties. Each consumer can make his children’s milk supply safe by the simple and inexpensive process of “scalding” it at home.

One looks forward to the day when we shall have a really pure milk supply, drawn from healthy herds, handled by persons who are clean, and distributed under strict hygienic conditions.”

The subject is so important that I offer no apologies for the foregoing paragraphs,

T. J. L. FORBES, M.O.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Whitworth Urban District Council.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I beg to submit my Report for 1937.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

47 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 6 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers, and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

STATEMENT OF REMOVAL OF NUISANCES IN AND AROUND DWELLINGS.

Houses :	Nature of work done	Nos.
	Houses repaired—walls and ceilings, including dampness	19
	Houses repaired—floors	4
	Houses repaired—roofs	4
	Houses repaired—staircases.....	4
	Window frames repaired	7
	Eavestroughing repaired	1
	Rain water pipes repaired ..	3
	External doors repaired .	1
	General house fittings:—	
	boilers, fireranges, etc	4
	cupboards and fittings	1
	Emission of smoke into living room	1
	Slopstone renewed	1
	Waste pipes repaired or trapped	4
	Insufficient ventilation.....	1

Insufficient water supply	48
Want of cleansing of houses	4
Insanitary cellars	2

Closets :

Closet fittings repaired or renewed	9
Accommodation cleansed	2

Ashplaces :

Accommodation repaired or improved	29
--	----

Drainage, etc. :

Choked gullies	32
Branch drains reconstructed	28
Drains opened and cleansed.....	12
Surface water drainage repaired	11
Defective drainage fittings	2

General :

Stable premises discontinued	1
Caravan	1
Keeping of birds discontinued	1
Accumulations removed	7
Insanitary areas	1
Dilapidated fowl houses	1

Dealing with the nuisances, difficulty is often experienced due to the erection of small fowl sheds and the keeping of fowls. The sheds are in many instances built of old material and in close proximity to dwelling-houses.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling-houses	238
Factories, workshops and workplaces	21
Offensive trades.....	11
Slaughterhouses	388
Dairy farms	89
Shops and vehicles	30
Bakehouses	42
Fried fish shops	15

HOUSING.

Statistics relating to the number of houses erected, inspections and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts are given in Housing Table.

In addition to the figures given in the Table 15 houses have been re-conditioned and of these 12 were back-to-back houses which have been converted into 6 through houses. Two obstructive buildings were also demolished.

Court proceedings were instituted in regard to a house re-let after a Closing Order had become operative. The case was withdrawn upon payment of costs, after an undertaking had been accepted from the owner that the house would be vacated within a certain number of days.

As will be seen from the Housing Table there has been a reduction of 7 cases of overcrowding during the year, and 12 since the time of the survey.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Retail Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 22, and 42 inspections have been carried out. In view of the standard of cleanliness which is generally maintained it has not been found necessary to issue any Statutory Notice.

Workshops.

There are 45 Workshops registered and frequent inspections have been carried out during the year.

See Table for full particulars under these Acts.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	10	6	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	53	8	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)			...
Total ...	63	14	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of offences in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	7	7	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	1	1	...	..
Sanitary accommodation :—				
insufficient	1	1	...	...
unsuitable, defective or insanitary	9	8	...	...
not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s.101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences re- lating to outwork and offences under the Sec- tions mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921) ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	18	17	...	...

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.—Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The recorded observations during 1937 number 15. The time limit for the issue of dense black smoke fixed by the Council is three minutes per half-hour and no serious emission was recorded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The inspection of all premises used for the preparation and sale of foodstuffs has received constant attention during the year. No action apart from the question of limewashing was necessary. The foodstuffs, taken collectively, show a good standard of quality.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of cowsheds on the Register at the end of 1937 was 42 of which 33 are dairy farms. During the year 89 visits have been made and the following improvements were carried out after negotiations with owners and occupiers :—

Shippons reconstructed.....	8
Shippon floors and walls repaired	3
New dairies	4
New midden steads	1
Midden stead reconstructed.....	1
Increased water supply	1
Drainage reconstructed on modern principles...	2
New stable premises.....	1

The cost of the improvements was approximately £1495 and the work was carried out through informal notice followed up by negotiations with owners.

In the case of three other farms under notice for improvements or reconstruction, the work is either in hand or under negotiation.

No applications were received in regard to Designated Milk but all reconstructed premises have been so arranged that they will be satisfactory for "Accredited Milk."

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The County Police administer the provisions of the above Act in this district and I am indebted to Superintendent Mitchell for the following particulars of samples obtained during 1937 :

Milk	14	samples
Barley	1	sample
Sugar.....	1	„
Pickles	1	„
Lard	1	„
Crab Paste	1	„
Chef kippers.....	1	„

The result of the analysis of all the samples except two milk samples was “Genuine.”

The two samples of milk, one deficient 5% solids not fat, and the other deficient 10% solids not fat, were taken from the same vendor, who was fined £5 in each case.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk is 7. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

Milk—Sedimentation Test.

24 samples have been procured for testing in regard to sediment. Of these 2 were unsatisfactory and the farmers were notified accordingly, and suggestions put forward for attaining a cleaner milk.

The number of samples obtained is much less than for 1936 due to the fact that the method has been superseded by one more satisfactory.

Milk—Bacteriological Examination.

29 samples and 2 Kit Washings as against 12 for 1936 were procured, and in 19 instances the count was high and the sample unsatisfactory due to the presence of *Bacillus Coli*.

Of the unsatisfactory samples one was from a farm outside the area and the authority concerned was notified.

Regarding the local farmers the farms were visited, enquiries instituted and suggestions put forward.

Milk—Tuberculosis.

34 samples were submitted for detecting supplies of tuberculous milk as compared with 28 for 1936. These samples represented the mixed milk of 456 cows. One of the samples was found to contain tubercle bacilli and as a result the farm was visited along with the County Veterinary Inspector and secondary samples obtained from all cows on the farm.

Samples of all milk supplied to school children are obtained quarterly and submitted for examination.

In regard to the distribution of milk there appears to be a gradual increase in the bottling of this commodity, but until such times as the container method is cheaper the universal adoption will be slow and we shall still have the bulk method of distribution.

Slaughterhouses.

There are seven licensed slaughterhouses in the district and during the year 388 visits have been made. 1639 carcasses were examined and 1172 lbs of foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

There were no infringements of the Meat Regulations or Byelaws.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two in the area—1 Tripe Boiling and 1 Hide Curing and 11 visits have been made. Both are carried on in a satisfactory manner.

SHOPS ACT.

In conjunction with the County Authorities 54 visits have been made to shops. Many of these premises are combined house and shop, and in these instances managed by the occupier. There is therefore not a great deal of employment of young persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND CLEANSING.

Closet Accommodation.

The accommodation is as follows :—

Water Closets	1740
Waste Water Closets	179
Pail Closets	65

As will be seen there are still 65 pail closets existing and these are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling houses	38
Mills and Workshops	9
Farms	7
Churches, etc.....	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where there is no sewer available, and the possibility of provision remote.

In regard to the waste water closets 11 have been converted to the fresh water carriage system during the year.

In many instances these closets are unsatisfactory and it is hoped that the conversions will be expedited by a contribution towards the cost.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Domestic refuse is collected weekly from all dwelling houses, the collection being carried out by motor waggon.

The refuse is disposed of as far as possible by controlled tipping on land at Landgate. The position is suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time easy of access.

The improved method of tipping has resulted in the elimination of rats, fire and general untidiness, and much work has been done to bring the tip to an orderly condition. The difficulty being experienced at the present time however is the shortage of suitable material for covering purposes.

During the year 1938 a further length of the stream will have to be piped or a culvert constructed so that the land can be used to better purpose.

Regarding the composition of the refuse, there is a definite increase in bulk, this no doubt being due to an extension of wrapped foods and the consumption of tinned goods.

The removal of trade refuse is carried out weekly, thus being quickly disposed of, preventing accumulation and nuisance.

Very few ash tubs now remain and as these become defective they will be replaced by the modern galvanized iron ash

bin. Also where the circumstances render it possible the large ash bin, 24 ins. by 18 ins. is replaced by one of small dimension, so reducing to a minimum the amount of refuse collected.

The following gives the details and cost of removal from January 1st, 1937, to December 31st, 1937 :—

Loads removed	943
Cost per load	16/4d.
Estimated weight	2253 tons
Cost per ton	6/10d.
Weight per house per annum	17½ cwts.
Cost per house per annum ..	6/0d.

As compared with 1936 the cost has been increased due to the engagement of an extra man at the Tip, but the elimination of factors already referred to compensates for this increase.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. Five samples of effluent were taken by the Rivers Inspector, and in each instance were classed as satisfactory. The results are based on the oxydizable organic matter, the test being the percentage of oxygen absorbed in 4 hours.

During the year 1614 pressfuls of sludge have been dealt with, representing in dry cake weight $566\frac{3}{4}$ tons. Most of this has been disposed of to farmers.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also tender my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his valued assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED COOKSON, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,

Whitworth.

